

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL XI, NO. 16

2-OCT 23

September 27, 1958

THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH AT 13TH U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In his speech before the General Assembly, Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Leopold Figl said that Austria's commitment to permanent neutrality does not preclude active cooperation "in discussing and solving the manifold and frequently complex problems of our age."

Addressing himself to the situation in the Middle East, Dr. Figl stressed that "the Austrian delegation places the highest confidence in the diplomatic skill of the Secretary-General through whose initiative a previous dangerous conflict in the Middle East area was settled in 1956. The experience gained at that time with relation to the Emergency Force of the United Nations justifies the hope that we will succeed in creating a permanent United Nations Peace Force that may also be used if needed in other parts of the world. If called upon, Austria is in principle prepared to cooperate in such an undertaking."

"Closely connected with the solution of the crisis in the Near East is the question of the Palestine Refugees, a problem which at last has to be eliminated not only for political but also for humanitarian reasons. We Austrians know from our own experience with European refugees about the physical and moral hardship of displaced persons and we can with due modesty point to our contribution towards alleviating their situation. Since 1945 Austria has granted asylum to more than one million of these unfortunate human beings. Far more than 200,000 have found their permanent home in Austria."

With regard to the present crisis in the Far East, Dr. Figl expressed hope that "direct negotiations between the powers concerned will succeed in bringing about a realistic solution of those problems which are at the root of this crisis. Such a solution, however, can only be found if all parties concerned abstain from the use of force according to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

"In view of the ominous development of modern means of mass destruction, mankind realizes more and more that international conflicts cannot possibly be solved by force," the Foreign Minister continued. "This realization is one further and compelling reason for discontinuing the dangerous as well as senseless armaments race and the staggering inflation of military budgets. Indeed, is it not the most urgent task of our generation to deal with this question without consideration of prestige or propaganda in that spirit of respon-

(Continued on page 8)

VIENNA PUTS IN BID FOR 1988 WORLD'S FAIR

The Cabinet approved a motion of the Foreign Minister which authorizes the Austrian representative at the Brussels World's Fair to advance the proposal that Vienna be chosen as the place of the next world exhibit. In his explanation, the Foreign Minister said that Austria and especially Vienna had been much in demand in recent years as the site for international meetings and congresses. He said that it would be of great importance to Austria's position in the world and also of economic importance if the Austrian capital would be chosen as the site of the next world's fair.

VIENNA ASSERTS ITS MANAGERIAL CAPACITY: SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF 5,700 ROLLS OFF WITHOUT A HITCH

The 1958 Congress of Biochemists which ended earlier in September (for a preview see *Austrian Information*, August 23) was an experiment: never had a meeting of these dimensions been held in Europe.

The figures: 5,700 participants; 1,700 lectures, often as many as 35 simultaneously in as many conference halls. Rarely had there been anything by way of prior documentation to make the subsequent lectures more effective. Never had Vienna's visitors' bureau been placed in a position where it had to house 5,700 people during the height of the summer season — all at the same time.

The next Biochemical Congress, which will take place three years hence, is to be held in Moscow. Already the Soviet scientists have invited the Austrians responsible for this year's event to spend a year in Moscow to help them organize the 1961 congress — a token of appreciation not readily forthcoming from these quarters. Even though the Austrians will not be able to spend more than a week in Moscow, they are sure to have a lot of experience to offer to their Soviet opposites: one and a half years of preparatory work for the Vienna congress.

The participants in Vienna agreed, however, that the official reports and papers were perhaps less fruitful than the subsequent discussions which took place among experts in small, private circles around the coffee table. In this environment, offered by the University of Vienna, the scien-

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A Progress Report in Figures
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tists from East and West had plenty of opportunity to exchange ideas.

The visitors' bureau in the beginning had worked in figures of about 2,000 participants. While taking care of that many was a lot of work, the responsible officials did not view the situation with undue alarm. But when registrations rose by the thousands — three, four, five thousand — and finally reached 5,700, officials in Friedrich Strasse, the head office of the Austrian Tourist Office, began to roll up their shirt-sleeves. Specialists went to work sorting the registrations according to the participant's interests in one theme or another, according to their working languages and according to their housing possibilities. Then they went to work to distribute communications, guides and interpreters.

3,500 of the participants were housed in hotels, the rest in private homes; 2,800 State Opera tickets were distributed for a special performance and two regular performances; 950 participants viewed the Spanish Riding Academy; 1,600 heard the Vienna Boys' Choir in special concerts; and participants in guided tours and the like were legion, too. When necessary, "Austrian solutions" were used, as for instance when 2,500 persons showed up for the Mayor's reception although only 1,500 had been invited. The mayor's office saw to it that no controls were used; as it happened, the buffet had enough food for all comers.

In all, this congress showed once again that Vienna has all the qualities of a convention city *par excellence*.

AUSTRIA AGAIN TOPS SWITZERLAND IN EUROPEAN TOURIST TRAFFIC, IS THIRD BEHIND FRANCE AND ITALY

Austria follows closely behind France and Italy among European tourist countries, Switzerland is fourth. This is shown in a new report issued by Austria's Central Statistical Office for the 1956/1957 season.

The number of overnight guests during that season increased by 3.8 million to 33.2 million in comparison with the previous season. Foreign tourists accounted for an increase of 3.1 million overnight bookings and with a total of 18.7 million made up 56% of total overnight reservations. These figures show an increase of 60% over the best prewar tourist season (1936/1937) and reached more than twice the results of the seasons of 1932/1933 and 1933/1934.

GOVERNMENT BONDS BRING TAX FORGIVENESS

The Austrian Government will shortly market a new issue of an investment loan and a savings bond. Both will earn the purchaser certain tax advantages. Employees and workers who buy shares or bonds get a 15% discount up to a limit of 50,000 schillings. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.). The sales offices forward records of these transactions to the revenue department which balances the discounts against the income tax. Thus the buyer pays for a nominal 500 schilling bond (which enters the market at 99% of face) only 420 schillings. The buyer must have a statement from his employer showing that he is a wage earner, subject to the wage tax. The interest on the bonds is tax free as of 1959. Self-employed people may invest up to five percent of their annual net income on these two loans without paying a tax on the interest.

RETAIL PRICES STABLE

The retail price index has decreased from 760 in July to 758 in August, or by .3%. Veal, pork and electricity went up a little, but potatoes went down considerably. Within a year's time, retail prices advanced by 1%.

U.S. BUYERS SHOW INTEREST IN KNITWEAR

Reports from the mid-September Vienna Fall Fair show that while the bad weather held back general attendance, the real businessmen had plenty of air. The result: good business.

The success of the textile exhibitors proved that the textile trade is most virile. Excellent sales results obtained by stocking manufacturers were due in part to a price reduction. Knitwear was much in demand especially among American buyers. Knitted dresses were close to the top of the list as far as purchases were concerned.

Other businesses which felt an increase included road building machines and household appliances such as washing machines, refrigerators and mixers.

Sales of TV receivers and modern furniture were considerably higher than expected. Also there was much demand for electrical appliances, especially motors for agricultural use, installation materials and circuit breakers. Yugoslavia and the Near East showed much interest in telephone supplies. Machines used in food production also found much favor, especially mixing machines for bakeries and molding machines for chocolate factories. England and Australia ordered different types of special machinery for the baking industry. Sewing machines went well with domestic buyers.

BUILDERS GET SPECIAL ATTENTION AT VIENNA FAIR

Austrian Builders erected a pavilion at the Vienna Fair grounds to give experts an opportunity to get information on all types of building problems. The Fair branch will have an outdoor motion picture theater to show educational and trade films.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL LD MEETING

(LD stands for Linz and Donawitz respectively, two Austrian steel towns where the method, generally referred to as the blower-converter or basic oxygen process, was developed. Ed.) The 1st International LD meeting takes place in Austria between September 22 and 25. The event is under the auspices of BOT (Brasserie-Oxygen-Technique Corp.) which is in charge of commercial exploitation of the LD patents.

About 100 foundry and smelter experts will participate. They come from Austria, France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, England, West Germany, the United States, Canada and Japan. Foreign LD licensees using the steel manufacturing system developed by the VOEST (United Austrian Steel) will exchange experiences during the meeting and discuss special problems with the Austrian experts.

KAOLIN PRODUCTION, EXPORTS UP

During the past three years, Austrian Kaolin production increased steadily at the rate of about 5% a year. Records show a total production of 292,000 tons in 1957 as against 272,000 tons in 1956. Exports rose by 15% last year.

FOREIGN DEMAND FOR AUSTRIAN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Sales of Austrian musical instruments in foreign markets during the first quarter of 1958 exceeded the results achieved in the same period of 1957 by 1,644,000 schillings. (26 schillings equal one dollar .Ed.) Spinets and grand pianos led in the export trade of instruments. The total money value of all musical instruments during the above period amounted 4,693,000 schillings. Good results were also achieved in the export of instrument parts and strings. Receipts for these doubled for parts and trebled for strings compared with 1957.

EUROPE'S FARMERS DEAL WITH INTEGRATION PROBLEMS AT VIENNA MEETING

On the eve of the current Congress of the European Agricultural Union in Vienna, the chairman, former Austrian Minister of Agriculture Kraus, told a press conference that the problems besetting agriculture had become bigger and more difficult since the Congress met last year in Helsinki. European agriculture, he said, faced grave problems connected with the imminent European economic integration.

Other speakers stressed that it was the task of the Congress to thoroughly examine the Stresa resolutions (concerning agriculture in the original six states of the European Economic Community) designed to promote a successful integration of the European economy while fully protecting agriculture. It was a further task of the Congress, it was argued, to consider all basic problems of European integration — as, for instance, the questions of a unified food distribution policy, parity relations and a free labor market.

CREDITS A BIG ITEM IN FARMER'S BUDGET; MECHANIZATION PROCEEDS APACE

During the mid-September meeting of the *Confederation du Credit Agricole* (CICA) in Salzburg, a report was issued on Austria's agricultural credit. It showed that Austria's rural population is a little more than one fifth of the whole population while 37% live off industry and trade. A similar tendency to a decreasing rural population has also been noted in most other European nations.

Austria has 418,000 agricultural and forestry establishments with a total operating area of 7.7 million hectares (one hectare equals 2½ acres. Ed.) Twenty-four percent of them are small peasants' farms. The medium-sized holdings account for 37%. These two types account for more than 28% of the whole arable area. The other 72% are employed by 60,000 large rural holdings, owning between 20 and 100 hectares each, and 6,300 large farms with more than 100 hectares each.

Austria's rural population (within the present borders) has decreased from 2,080,000 in 1910 to 1,520,000 in 1957. The continuing flight to the city made large-scale mechanization necessary. 78,000 out of a possible 217,000 farms now use tractors. The report showed in detail what kind of financing methods had to be used to make mechanization possible. The report concluded that Austrian agriculture (which today employs only 85% of the workers employed in 1937 but produces 110% in comparison with the prewar period) must continue mechanization if it is to compete in a common European market.

230 MILES OF GAS PIPE LINES

Construction of pipe lines to distribute natural gas goes forward apace. Great progress was made this year. The long-distance line from *Schwechat* to the *Semmering* (Lower Austria) was finished. The so-called Southern circuit leading to *Wiener Neustadt* is already in operation. Branch lines lead directly to industrial plants.

The Western circuit is now under construction. So far, total pipe lengths amount to about 180 miles. Another 18 miles are under construction. An additional 32 miles are in the blueprint stage for construction by the end of the year. The construction of a spheric gas container at *Krems* on the *Danube* is to start in September. The pipe line will probably reach that city some time this year.

SULPHATE-RESISTANT CEMENT DEVELOPED

Following extensive experiments, a plant in Styria succeeded in developing a new type of highly sulphate-resistant cement which will be marketed under a trade name indicative of its high-grade properties. It is especially suitable in the construction of tunnels, underground shafts, sedimentation basins and foundations in soil with high gypsum content.

GLASS PRODUCTION RISES IN 1958

Austria's plate glass production increased from 1.8 million square meters (one square meter equals 1.196 square yards . Ed.) in the first half of 1957 to 2.2 million square meters in the first half of 1958. During the same period, the output of hollow glass increased from 22,000 to 23,000 tons. Large demands made in connection with modern construction techniques spurred the increased volume.

AUSTRIAN CATTLE EXPORTS RISE STEEPLY

Efforts of Austrian cattle breeders to achieve a standard annual yield of 4,000 liters of milk (one liter equals 1.06 quarts. Ed.) with 3.8% fat content per head in their high-grade breeds have met with success; as a result, Austrian cattle exports rose from 9,674 heads in 1937 to 38,288 heads in 1957.

ELECTRIC RANGES LEAD IN APPLIANCE SALES

The electric range was the household appliance most in demand in Austria last year. Within one year, the number of these ranges has risen by 50,000. They are in use especially in the South — in Styria and southern Burgenland. Vienna has relatively few electric ranges because the gas supply is ample, and people apparently still prefer gas ranges.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP RECALLING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF OSWALD REDLICH, AUSTRIAN HISTORIAN

Face Value: 2.40 schillings.
First Day of Issue: September 12, 1958.
Size of Stamp: 29.8 X 38.5 mm.
Color: Reddish blue
Design: Robert Fuchs
Engraver: Georg Wimmer
Printer: Austrian State Printing Office
Issue: 3,000,000 copies.



CULTURE AND SCIENCE

THE WORLD'S PRESS AT THE SALZBURG FESTIVAL

The 1958 Salzburg Festival, with a total of 86 performances, attracted 91,820 people. Another 16,300 attended dress rehearsals. The public information office met the requirements of 755 newspapermen from 38 different nations. This was the largest number of correspondents to cover the Festival. Their number included representatives of newspapers, periodicals, news agencies, radio and television stations, photographers and artists. 663 came from European countries and 92 from overseas. A breakdown shows the following countries of origin: 287 from Austria; 222 from West Germany; 57 from the U.S.; 27 from France; 24 from Britain; 21 from Switzerland; 18 from the Netherlands; 12 from Yugoslavia; eight each from Denmark and Italy; six from Israel; five each from East Germany, Norway, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Brazil; four each from Finland and Canada; three each from Egypt and the Union of South Africa; two each from Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Morocco; and one each from Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Panama, Algeria, Iran, Ceylon, Japan and Australia.

BREGENZ FESTIVAL SCHEDULE 1959

The Bregenz Festival Board recently announced the tentative schedule for the 1959 season, July 21 to August 20. The 60th anniversary of Johann Strauss' death will be commemorated with the performance of the composer's operetta "Thousand and One Nights" under Heinrich Hollreiser's direction. The Stage on the Lake will also be used for a number of ballet performances, including Tchaikowsky's "Swan Lake." In addition, the Vienna State Opera will give several ballet performances in the *Theater am Kornmarkt*. The Vienna Burgtheater will offer a first performance of a play yet to be chosen; it will also offer Schiller's "Wallenstein" and Nestroy's "Der Zerrissene." The Vienna Philharmonic will give several concerts. The Theater am Kornmarkt has scheduled several Italian operas: Cimarosa's "Il Maestro di Capella," Monteverdi's "Combattimento de Tancredi e Clorinda," and Donizetti's "Il Campanello." Artistic direction of the Stage on the Lake has been assigned to Adolf Rott.

FIFTH U.S. - CANADA TOUR SCHEDULED FOR VIENNA AKADEMIE CHAMBER CHOIR

The Vienna Akademie Chamber Choir left Vienna Sept. 17 for its fifth tour of the United States and Canada. The tour closes in December. The choir will give 55 concerts in 16 states in provinces under the direction of Guenther Theuring. The choir's program includes such old masters as Palestrina, Bach and Lotti and such contemporary composers as Milhaud and Kodaly. The choir will also offer music by old Austrian masters, including Mozart, Haydn and Schubert. Brahms and Johann Strauss works are also on the program.

257 NEW MOTION PICTURES SHOWN IN AUSTRIA

During the first six months of 1958, 257 new films were exhibited in Austria. There were 121 color films - 30 less than during the same period in 1957. A relative decrease in imports from two major foreign producers, the U.S. and West Germany, was also noted.

AUSTRIAN TV UNDAUNTED, REACHES QUIZ AGE; IT'S IN THE RED - BUT LOOK: NO COMMERCIALS

Basic problems of Austrian TV, including programming, were recently the subject of a press conference given by the Austrian Radio. TV-director Gerhard Freund reported that future programming will be made more harmonious, because the West German studios (which originate part of the Austrian program) now give a preview of what they intend to offer three months ahead of time, so that Austrian studios now have more time for careful planning.

The Austrian TV intends to broadcast six plays each month - four from West Germany and two from Austria. To this will be added three general entertainment programs from foreign stations, such as quizzes, two popular Austrian airings, a variety act, and twice weekly an Austrian TV puzzle show. Among the shows to be retained is "What's new?" with Heinz Conrads, Austria's answer to Bob Hope. New shows include "The TV Family," a characterization of Austrian everyday life, and a humorous series with Helmut Qualtinger, who has emerged as the leading exponent of traditional Vienna *Kleinkunst*.

Another new TV series, "Looking Back," is meant to test the viewer's critical capacities. "You're On" is another new show giving a cross-section of Vienna's musical and theatrical life. And finally, "This You Should See" will take the viewer to museums and art exhibitions.

For the children, the Austrian TV has such offers as Punch and Judy Shows, "Let's Play Along" (an Austrian Captain Kangaroo), a Story Book, and "A Basic Course in Drawing." For the housewives, TV offers cooking and home-making broadcasts. A special series will implore the young motorcyclists to employ caution, and students will have a number of programs offering advice for their future careers.

However, soccer enthusiasts will not be too happy about the new programming; not too many games will be shown until the results of an inquiry are in on whether televising of the games can be blamed for the lowered attendance.

So far, four Austrian shows were televised over the European network: one sports event and three artistic programs, including Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte." The Austrian TV also intends to continue to expand its serious programs.

At this time, 10 Austrian TV stations are in operation, and several more are under construction. To improve technical standards, the administration is considering the purchase of more TV cameras, filming devices and TV photo trucks. It is expected that within five years, Vienna will have an entirely new TV City in its environs. For the time being, broadcasting continues from the inadequate studios at Schoenbrunn and from a number of rented theaters.

Austrian TV is subsidized by the state, but it is hoped that before long operating costs can be covered by the monthly fees charged on TV receivers. However, to make this possible, several hundred thousand people would have to buy TV sets and pay the monthly 50 schilling fee (about two dollars) which spares Austrian viewers the pains so eloquently described by Alfred Hitchcock.

At present, with only 40,000 TV receivers registered in Austria, about 15% of the annual operating costs are covered

THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY: A PROGRESS REPORT IN FIGURES

Austria's Payment Balance 1954 - 1957

	1954	1955	1956	1957 ¹⁾
	Million Schillings (26 = \$1)			
Imports	16.987 ²⁾	23.068 ³⁾	25.319	29.339
Exports	15.851	18.117	22.076	26.547
Trade Balance	- 1.136	- 4.951	- 3.243	- 2.792
Service Balance	+ 2.905	+ 1.528	+ 2.206	+ 3.594
Capital Balance	- 1.014	- 39	+ 1.394	+ 1.511
Foreign Aid	+ 514	+ 55	-	-
Statistical Adjustments	+ 1.222	+ 2.012	+ 1.008	+ 1.260
Changes in currency values	+ 2.491	- 1.395	+ 1.365	+ 2.468

1) Provisional Report. - 2) Including Foreign Aid. - 3) As of 1955 without compensations shipments under State Treaty.

Trade and Payment Balance

	First Quarter 1958	
	Total	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as against previous yr. in mil. schil.
Commercial Exports	5694	329
Imports	6972	465
Commercial Trade Balance	- 1278	- 136
Service Balance	+ 728	+ 77
Capital Balance	+ 398	+ 139
Statistical Corrections	+ 220	197
Currency Holdings	+ 77	+ 155

Gross Investments of Investment Capital

	1956	1957	Changes as against 1956 in %	
	Billion Schillings Current Prices		nominal	real
Investment in Machines	12,5	14,2	13,4	10,2
Investments in Buildings	11,8	12,9	9,3	4,6
Total of Gross Investments	24,3	27,1	11,4	7,4

Gross Investments

	First Quarter of 1958	
	Decrease against 1st Quarter 1957 %	Increase against 1st Quarter 1956 %
Investments in Buildings	4,0	10,7
Investments in Machines	1,4	10,5
Total of Gross Investments	2,2	10,6

Average Income and Private Consumption

	1956	1957	1st Quarter 1958
	Increase over previous year in %		
Net Average Income	+ 13,0	+ 10,6	+ 8,6
Value of Private Consumption	+ 7,3	+ 6,9 ¹⁾	+ 5,0 ¹⁾

1) Preliminary Estimate.

Development of Deposits in Credit Institutes During the First Quarter

	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in million schillings		
	1956	1957	1958
Savings Account Deposits			
up to 12 months	+ 1053	+ 1130	+ 1438
over 12 months	+ 65	+ 68	+ 423
Total	+ 1118	+ 1198	+ 1861
Checking Account Deposits			
up to 12 months	- 742	- 115	- 178
over 12 months	+ 84	+ 167	+ 404
Total	- 658	+ 52	+ 226

Wholesale Prices and Cost of Living

	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as against the previous year in %	
	December 1957	May 1958
Price Index	- 1,8	- 3,0
Cost of Living Index (entire)	+ 2,3	+ 4,4
Cost of Living Index (without seasonal products)	+ 2,5	+ 1,5

Austria's Dependence on Imports

	Coverage of Consumption of Main Foodstuffs from Domestic Production	Raw Material and Fuel Imports per Unit of Industrial Production (1) 1937 = 100
	in Percent	
1937	81,3	100
1951	78,6	62
1954	84,1	53
1957	85,0	61

1) Index of the import volume of raw materials and fuels divided by the industrial production index.

Speedy Expansion of Foreign Trade 1)

	Gross National Product 2)	Foreign Trade Volume 3)	Industrial Production 1937 = 100	Exports of Industrial Goods 4)	Imports of Raw Materials 5)
1951	133,6	107,8	165,5	123,4	101,8
1953	138,0	116,4	169,9	168,0	86,5
1955	168,7	182,2	225,3	231,1	128,6
1957	187,9	234,4	247,8	318,1	152,3

1) Constant prices. - 2) 1954 prices. - 3) Imports and Exports. - 4) Chemicals, machines and vehicles, partly finished and finished goods, other finished goods. - 5) Including fuels.

Structure of Goods Exchange

	Foodstuffs and Raw Materials	Industrial Products	Industrial Products	Merchandise against Services & Credits
	in % of Total Foreign Trade			
1937	27,3	42,0	21,8	8,9
1951	26,6	44,7	10,1	18,6
1954	31,7	50,3	14,5	3,5
1957	25,6	58,2	9,1	7,1

Regional Distribution of Foreign Trade

	1937		1951		1954		1957	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
	in % of total Imports or Exports							
Western Europe.....	40	52	58	63	76	70	72	66
Eastern Europe 1).....	40	33	12	15	11	12	11	15
U.S.A.....	6	3	22	6	6	5	12	4
Other Overseas Countries	14	12	8	16	7	13	5	15

1) U.S.S.R., Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Development of Exports in Austria and Western Europe

Year	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as against the previous year in %	
	Austria	Western Europe
1957	+ 15,2	+ 9,2
1958	- 3,9 ¹⁾	+ 1,0 ²⁾

1) January through April. - 2) January and February.

The Share of the Three Most Important
Buying Countries
(West Germany, Italy, Switzerland)

	% of Exports
1937	38,0
1951	37,0
1954	48,0
1957	47,5

Iron, Steel and Lumber

	% of Exports
1937	20,6
1951	29,5
1954	33,9
1957	33,7

Foreign Trade Per Capita of Austrian Population
(at 1957 Prices)

	Imports	Exports
	Schillings	
1929	3613	1931
1937	2113	1376
1950	2098	1352
1957	4186	3630

(Sources for all statistical data: The Austrian National Bank, Monthly Reports of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, Statistical Reports of the Austrian Central Office for Statistics.)

U.N. Assembly (Continued from page 1.)

sibility and objectivity which alone can lead to its solution?

"Fortunately, new perspectives have opened up in this field which give rise to the hope that an improvement of the international climate and a greater willingness of the big powers to reach a mutual understanding will come about. The specific results of the Conference of Experts in Geneva on the technical feasibility of controlling nuclear tests, the readiness of the big powers to negotiate an agreement regarding the suspension of such tests as well as their willingness to discuss safeguards against surprise attacks, all lead to the hope that the deadlock in the disarmament discussions will at long last be broken and that a settlement of the problem will gradually be achieved. Positive results regarding these technical details could pave the way to a global agreement on disarmament."

Declaring the creation of better living conditions throughout the world "an essential prerequisite for the peaceful co-existence of all nations," Dr. Figl expressed satisfaction "that new projects for the economic development of the underdeveloped countries have been submitted to this Assembly. We welcome the establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for this purpose. The setting up of long-range projects should, however, be accompanied by long-range credits for their implementation and should also meet regional requirements."

"The Austrian Government is convinced," he said, "that in this divided world in which we have to live peaceful cooperation between nations is of decisive importance. We believe, however, that this cooperation, in order to be really fruitful, should be guided by respect for the fundamental human rights on which the Charter of the United Nations is based. We have therefore never hesitated to stand for freedom and human dignity. No one can accuse a country like Austria of ulterior motives when she raises her voice in defense of humanity; as the representative of this country I wish therefore to take this opportunity to address a renewed appeal to our Neighbor State, Hungary, to grant an amnesty to all those who, following the events of October 1956, are still in prison. But at the same time I appeal to the responsible statesmen of all other nations — whatever their form of Government — in which human beings are being deprived of freedom or equal rights on account of their political or religious convictions, their race or language."

"May this spirit of tolerance and humanity prevail among those taking part in the forthcoming deliberations of this General Assembly of the United Nations. The difficulties of our task and the limits of our possibilities we do not ignore. But much can be achieved if we are guided by right, justice and mutual understanding," Dr. Figl concluded.

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